(*b*) the number of tons of firewood already despatched to British India in the years 1117, 1118 and 1119?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests:)*

(*a*) It does not require a permission to deal in firewood.

(*b*) There is no possibility of gathering the information.

SANKARANKUTTI MENON (V)—STATEMENT REGARDING BELABOURING BY POLICE

48. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have been duly informed of the public statements made by one Mr. V. Sankarankutti Menon of Irinjalakkuda that he was belaboured by the Police in Irinjalakkuda station;

(*b*) will they be pleased to state what if any action has been taken in the matter?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):*

(*a*) Without knowing the period covered by the question it is not possible to give a definite answer.

(*b*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*a*).

RIKSHAW HIRES—CONTROL OF

49. Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Will Government be pleased to state.—whether any instructions have been issued to police officers in regard to the strict control of the rikshaw hires notified under the Hackney carriages act?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* Yes.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* May I know whether any special staff has been deputed for the purpose?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* No special staff was deputed. The field police had been instructed to take stock of such things and take necessary action.

BUS—PROCUREMENT ON LEASE-LEND BASIS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

50. Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Will Government be pleased to state whether (*a*) there is not the practice to obtain buses from the Central Government on the lease and lend scheme, and

(*b*) any steps have so far been taken in this line?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):*

(*a*) Civil Motor Transport vehicles are allotted to this State also by the Government of India.

(*b*) Yes.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* May I know the number of buses we have got as per this scheme?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* We have been getting the quota from the Government of India allotted to this State and we allot the buses and lorries to such persons who are engaged in war effort. We give due consideration to all people in the order of priority.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Then these buses are not lent for private purposes?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* It is.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder. *(Nominated):* Sir, I congratulate the Finance Member and through him the Government for placing before us a surplus budget. The problem today the world over is the post-war questions and before I turn to these subjects, I wish to say a few words on one or two other matters. Like my colleagues, I am happy that Government has increased the dearness allowance to all servants drawing salaries below Rs. 200 but I think it is only fair and equitable to give dearness allowance to all servants irrespective of their salaries. The cost of living has not only hit the poorly paid servants but the higher paid staff too suffers equally, if not comparatively more, as their commitments are great and standard of life higher. I am also pleased that the long awaited legislation for the prevention of begging is now before us. The

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